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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

First Committee
25th meeting
Tuesday, 4 September 2012, 11 a.m.
New York

Chair: Mr. Viinanen ..... (Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 11.15 a.m.

Election of the Chair and the Bureau of the First Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

The Chair: In accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chair of the First Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Before we proceed, I would like, on behalf of the First Committee, to convey my sincere thanks and the appreciation of every delegation to the other members of the Bureau of the sixty-sixth session of the Committee — the Vice-Chairs, Ms. Ayesha Borland of Belize, Mr. Amr Fathi Aljowaily of Egypt and Mr. Mohammad F.A.O. AlMutairi of Kuwait, and the Rapporteur, Mr. Archil Gheghechkori of Georgia — for their valuable contributions and assistance in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

We shall now proceed with the election of the Chair of the First Committee. It is my honour and privilege to nominate the candidate of the Group of Asia and Pacific States, Mr. Desra Percaya, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, for the post of Chair of the First Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Percaya assumed his functions as the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations in February. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Percaya was his country's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, where he was also accredited to the World Trade Organization and other international organizations based there.

In the course of his career, Ambassador Percaya has held a variety of posts relating to multilateral diplomacy and international security. Between 2007 and 2009, he served as Spokesperson on United Nations Security Council issues for his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as Director of International Security and Disarmament in the Directorate of Multilateral Affairs in Jakarta. He also held the position of Special Adviser to the Director-General for Political Affairs on Aceh, in the Foreign Ministry, serving during the same period as head of the Sub-Directorate for Human Rights in the Ministry's International Organizations Directorate. His foreign service includes previous positions at Indonesia's Permanent Mission in New York as head of Political Affairs/Minister Counsellor, from 2003 to 2005; and head of Political Affairs/Counsellor from 2002 to 2003.

Ambassador Percaya holds a doctorate in political science from Durham University and a master's degree in international relations from Birmingham University, both in the United Kingdom. He also holds a graduate diploma from the Institute of International Studies in Geneva and a bachelor's degree in social and political sciences from Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia.

Given his vast experience and impressive credentials, it is truly an honour for me to submit his candidature to the Committee today.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and with established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Desra Percaya of Indonesia elected as Chair of the First Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair: On behalf of the Committee, I congratulate Ambassador Percaya on his election. I am certain that he will receive the support and enthusiastic cooperation of each and every delegation in executing his mandate to guide the work of the First Committee to success during the sixty-seventh session.

Regarding the election of the three Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, I am pleased to inform the Committee that I have received correspondence from the regional groups nominating their candidates for those positions.

The nominee for Vice-Chair from the Group of Easten European States is Mr. Dovydas Špokauskas of Lithuania and the nominee from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States is Mr. Alexis Aquino of Peru. Considering that these two candidates have been unanimously endorsed by their respective regional groups, may I take it that the Committee wishes to declare them elected as Vice-Chairs of the First Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair: For the position of Rapporteur, the Group of Western European and other States nominated Mr. Knut Langeland of Norway. May I take it that the Committee wishes to elect Mr. Langeland as the Rapporteur for the First Committee at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair: I would like to congratulate the newly elected Bureau members and wish them success in their work during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

As far as nominations from the Group of African States are concerned, the Group has requested more time for consultations on the nomination of their representative for the Bureau. The Committee will address the election of the remaining Vice-Chair from the Group of African States as soon as that nomination is received.

I now give the floor to the Chair-elect of the First Committee for the sixty-seventh session, Ambassador Desra Percaya of Indonesia.

Mr. Percaya (Indonesia): I thank you, Mr. Chair, for convening this meeting. I highly appreciate the trust placed in me by the States Members of the United Nations. It is a great honour for me as well as a challenge to chair the First Committee at this vital juncture.

The challenges in the field of disarmament and international security are obvious and substantive, but there are none that we cannot overcome by working together and bringing our respective political capital to bear towards realizing our shared goal of achieving peace and security for all humankind. Importantly, there is renewed determination on the part of the international community to move the disarmament agenda forward.

I am confident that with collaboration, cooperation and our combined determination, we can advance substantive work in the First Committee. The support of all Member States will be extremely important to me in the effective fulfilment of my duties. I will do my utmost to meet members' expectations, work with them all and rely on their cooperation and input in performing my role of helping to facilitate befitting outcomes in the First Committee during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Through you, Mr. Chair, I express my gratitude to the delegations once again for their confidence in electing me.

The Chair: I can assure Ambassador Percaya that all delegations are going to support him in his very important task.

I should like to say a few words. It has been a great privilege to chair this important Committee. Disarmament is one of the key components of our efforts to foster international peace and security. Be it small arms or nuclear weapons, the proliferation of arms forms a threat to peace all over the world.

Multilateral efforts are a central tool for combating the proliferation of arms and fostering disarmament. The First Committee is a key arena for these multilateral